

REMARKS

Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-4 and 7-8 are amended and claims 1-2 and 5-6 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-4 and 7-8 contain allowable subject matter. These claims are rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Office Action.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rees et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,787).

Claims 1-2 and 5-6 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

II. Objection to Claims 3-4 and 7-8

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 3-4 and 7-8 contain allowable subject matter. However, the Office Action objects to claims 3-4 and 7-8 for being dependent upon rejected base claims.


Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are amended. The claims are now in independent form as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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